

50710. COLOCASIA sp. Araceæ.**Taro.**

From Quinto do Palheiro, Funchal, Madeira. Tubers presented by J. Ernest Blandy, American consul. Received June 18, 1920.

"*Igname branca*. A variety of taro apparently identical with the yellow tanyah grown in the coast regions of South Carolina and Georgia. The corms are intensely acrid in the raw state and require boiling for fully two hours to destroy this property and render them edible. They are of very pronounced flavor, but are preferred to most other taros by those who have acquired the taste for them. The buds are white, and the skin is without color beneath the brown fiber. It is of interest to note that the other taro, *igname vermeilho*, cultivated in Madeira, is apparently identical with the blue tanyah of the South Atlantic States." (R. A. Young.)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 19996.

50711 to 50725.

From Darjiling, Bengal, India. Seeds presented by G. H. Cave, curator, Lloyd Botanic Garden. Received June 30, 1920.

50711. ACACIA CATECHU L. Mimosaceæ.

A moderate-sized deciduous tree, common in most parts of India and Burma, with dark-brown much-cracked bark, bipinnate leaves, and spikes of white or pale-yellow flowers. The plant yields a pale-yellow gum, and a dull-red dye can be obtained from a solution of catechu, the commercially important astringent resinous extract obtained from the chopped wood by boiling for 20 hours.

Kath, largely used as an ingredient in the betel-leaf preparation which the natives are so fond of chewing, is a crystalline substance deposited upon twigs placed in the boiling solution of chopped wood. It is the kath in combination with lime in the betel-leaf preparation which gives the teeth and lips the red color so characteristic of Hindus. Continued use blackens the teeth.

The sapwood is yellowish white; the heartwood is either dark or light red and extremely hard. The wood is very durable, seasons well, and takes a fine polish. It is not attacked by white ants or by teredo. It is used for agricultural implements and wheelwright work. The fuel of the dead trees is much valued by goldsmiths and is one of the best woods for making charcoal. (Adapted from Watt, *Dictionary of the Economic Products of India*, vol. 1, p. 27.)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 45954.

50712. ALBIZZIA CHINENSIS (Osbeck) Merr. Mimosaceæ.

(*A. stipulata* Bolv.)

A shade tree of easy culture, which is a native of continental and insular southern Asia, extending to the Himalayas and China and ascending to altitudes of 4,000 feet. (Adapted from Mueller, *Select Extra-Tropical Plants*, p. 30.)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 42356.

50713. ALBIZZIA LEBBECK (L.) Benth. Mimosaceæ.**Lebbeck tree.**

A large deciduous spreading ornamental tree exceedingly good for avenues. Its roots do not penetrate very deep. It grows in the ever-green mixed forests in the sub-Himalayas from the Indus River east-